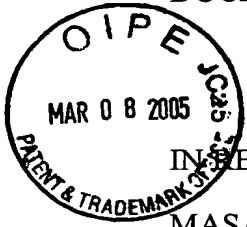


DOCKET NO: 243144US3DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

MASAHIKO YAMADA, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: BEHREND, H.

SERIAL NO: 10/673,248 :

FILED: SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 3641

FOR: FUEL ASSEMBLY AND THIMBLE :
SCREW OF THE SAME

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.